

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled the currently pending claims and substituted claims 21 through 40 therefor. Applicant has also provided an amended specification, including the related applications section.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 through 40 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner determine that any adverse action is necessary, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney, Randall B. Bateman, so that such matters can be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit any amount owing or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-0881.

Respectfully Submitted,

MORRISS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI, PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randall B. Bateman', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

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21. (New) An enterostomy device comprising:
a hollow stoma tube having a first end and a second end and a long axis extending therebetween;
a low-profile port hub secured to said first end of said stoma tube for selectively providing
ingress and egress of fluids through said stoma tube, the low-profile port hub having an
opening disposed perpendicular to the hollow stoma tube;
a retaining member attached to said second end of said stoma tube and extending therefrom, said
retaining member having an inflatable ring portion spaced away from the second end; and
an inflation line positioned in proximity to said stoma tube and being in fluid communication
with said inflatable ring of said retaining member.

22. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 21 wherein said retaining member further
comprises a skirt of flexible material encircling said second end of said stoma tube and attaching
said second end to said inflatable ring.

23. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 22 wherein said inflatable ring and skirt are
oriented in a generally perpendicular orientation to the longitudinal axis of said stoma tube upon
full deployment.

24. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 21 wherein said port hub comprises at
least one port selectively positionable to be in fluid communication with said stoma tube and
selectively positionable to be in fluid communication with said inflation line.

25. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 24 wherein said port hub is rotatable relative to said stoma tube, and wherein said stoma tube further comprises at least one opening, said port of said port hub being selectively movable between a position in alignment with said opening and a position out of alignment with said opening.

26. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 25 wherein said stoma tube further includes a second opening, and said port is selectively movable for alignment with a first opening and with said second opening.

27. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 21 wherein said inflatable ring of said retaining member is a flattened toroidal ring.

28. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 21 further comprising a flexible jejunostomy tube attached to and extending from said second end of said stoma tube.

29. (New) An enterostomy device comprising:
a hollow stoma tube sized to be received through a stoma formed through the abdominal wall of a patient, said hollow stoma tube having a first end and a second end;
an inflation line configured with said stoma tube extending between said first end and said second end;
a retaining member attached to said second end of said stoma tube and being in fluid communication with said inflation line, said retaining member comprising an inflatable

toroidal ring of biocompatible material coaxial with and secured to said stoma tube and extending therefrom;

at least one opening positioned at said first end of said stoma tube for delivery of substantially fluid substances through said stoma tube.

30. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 29 wherein said retaining member further comprises a skirt of material attached to and extending from said second end of said stoma tube to said inflatable toroidal ring.

31. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 29 further comprising a port hub disposed at the first end of the stoma tube, the port hub being rotatable relative to said stoma tube and having at least one port for selectively aligning with at least one opening formed through said stoma tube for selective delivery of said substantially fluid substances through said stoma tube.

32. (New) The enterostomy device of claim 11 further comprising a jejunostomy tube secured to and extending from said second end of said stoma tube, in proximity to said retaining member.

33. (New) A method of delivering fluids to a patient through a stoma formed through the abdominal wall of the patient, comprising:

providing a gastrostomy device having a stoma tube, a port hub, an inflation line and a retaining member comprised of an inflatable ring extendable from said stoma tube, said retaining member being initially housed within said stoma tube for deployment;

positioning said stoma tube of said gastrostomy device through an existing stoma formed through the abdominal wall of the patient;

initiating ejection of said retaining member from said stoma tube; and

inflating said inflatable ring with said fluid until said inflatable ring is in contact with the lining of the patient's stomach.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, further comprising injecting a substantially flowable substance through said stoma tube for delivery to the stomach.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33, further comprising releasing fluid from said retaining member through said inflation line and removing said gastrostomy device from said stoma.

36. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises selecting a stoma tube having a second end and the retaining member attached to the second end by a skirt of flexible material.

37. (New) A method of delivering fluids to the intestine of a patient through a stoma formed through the abdominal wall of the patient, comprising:

providing a stoma tube having an opening form in conjunction with an inflation line having an opening and a port hub disposed thereon to selectively provide and prevent access to the opening of the stoma tube and the inflation line; and

rotating the port hub to selectively provide access to the opening in the stoma tube and the inflation line.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the method further comprises rotating the port hub so that access is provided to neither the opening of the stoma tube nor the opening of the inflation line.

39. (New) A catheter for delivering fluids into a human body, the catheter having a balloon and comprising:
a stoma tube for delivering fluids, the stoma tube having an opening,
an inflation line configured with the stoma tube for inflating the balloon, the inflation line having
an opening, and a
port hub, having a rotatable opening and selectively disposed in communication with the stoma tube and the inflation line for selectively delivering fluids therethrough.

40. (New) The catheter for delivering fluids of claim 39, wherein the inflation line and the stoma tube each have a long axis and wherein the openings of the inflation line and the stoma tube are disposed generally perpendicular to the long axis.



LOW-PROFILE ENTEROSTOMY DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] Related Applications: This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/507,141, filed February 18, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,328,720.

[0002] Field of The Invention: This invention relates to medical devices for use with humans and animals, and specifically relates to enterostomy devices for insertion in the stomach or intestine to provide delivery of nutrients and other substances directly to the gastrointestinal tract of patients who cannot be fed by other conventional means.

[0003] Statement of the Art: It frequently becomes necessary in the medical treatment of humans and animals to provide nutrients or other substances to the patient's stomach by means other than the mouth due to the existence of some condition in, or relative to, the mouth or esophagus which renders impossible the normal intake of fluids or nutrients through the mouth. Such conditions may include, for example, a localized disease condition of the mouth or esophagus or the inability of the patient to chew or swallow. Delivery of fluids or nutrients to the patient's stomach may be provided in one of three generally-recognized methods-- namely nasenteric tube placement, gastrostomy or jejunostomy. Feeding via nasenteric tube